Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A friction clutch, comprising:

a housing arrangement having an axis of rotation; and

an intermediate plate arrangement coupled to said housing arrangement for joint rotation therewith about the axis of rotation, and arrangeable for transmitting a pressure force between two frictional output members, said intermediate plate arrangement including two intermediate plate elements with an elastic prestressing arrangement arranged therebetween and prestressing the elements away from each other, said intermediate plate elements being axially displaceable [~~with respect to~~] toward one another counter to [~~the action~~] a prestressing force of said elastic prestressing arrangement, said arrangement further comprising restraining members which act counter to the prestressing force and independently of the frictional output members to limit axial displacement of the elements away from each other when the clutch is disengaged.

Claim 2 (original): The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said intermediate plate elements comprises, on a side facing the other of said intermediate plate elements, a recess for at least a partial reception of said prestressing arrangement.

Claim 3 (original): The friction clutch of claim 2, wherein said recess comprises an annular depression.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The friction clutch of claim [4] 1, wherein said restraining members comprise one of clinched bolts and screw bolts.

Claim 6 (original): The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said prestressing arrangement comprises at least one spring element.

Claim 7 (original): The friction clutch of claim 6, wherein said at least one spring element comprises one of a cup spring, a corrugated spring, an elastomeric element or a helical coil spring.

Claim 8 (original): The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said intermediate plate elements includes one of a frictional surface or a frictional lining element providing a frictional surface.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An intermediate plate arrangement for installation between two frictional output members of a friction clutch, the intermediate plate arrangement comprising two intermediate plate elements and an elastic prestressing arrangement arranged therebetween and prestressing the elements away from each other, said two intermediate plates being displaceable [~~with respect to~~] toward one another counter to a prestressing force exerted by

said elastic prestressing arrangement, said arrangement further comprising restraining members which act counter to the prestressing force and independently of the frictional output members to limit axial displacement of the elements away from each other when the clutch is disengaged.